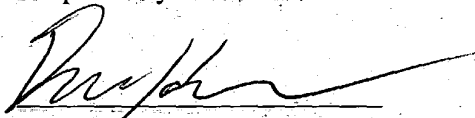


Preliminary Amendment  
Filed: July 1, 2003  
Our Ref: Q76406

**REMARKS**

The Amendments to the claims were to delete the multiple dependencies of the claims and to correct the numbering of the second claim 42, through and including, claim 47 (now claim 48). It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian W. Hannon  
Registration No. 32,778

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE



23373

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: July 1, 2003

Preliminary Amendment

Filed: July 1, 2003

Our Ref: Q76406

## APPENDIX

### VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

#### IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

Claim 33 (Amended). Use of the methods according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 32~~ in the production of a chewing gum product, such as compressed chewing gum tablets.

Claim 34 (Amended) A chewing gum product obtained by any of the methods according to ~~any one of the claims claim 1-34~~.

~~42. 43~~ (Amended). A chewing gum granulating system according to claim 40, wherein the second diameter is in the range of 0.4 to 2.1 mm,

~~43. 44~~ (Amended). A chewing gum granulating system according to claim ~~42 43~~, wherein the second diameter is in the range of 0.7 to 1.9 mm.

~~44. 45~~ (Amended). A chewing gum granulating system according to claim 39, wherein the system further comprises a drying device adding powder sweetener to the granules in a final drying step.

Preliminary Amendment

Filed: July 1, 2003

Our Ref: Q76406

45-46 (Amended). A chewing gum granulating system according to claim ~~44~~ 45, wherein said powder sweetener being added while moisture is remaining on the surface of the granules.

46-47 (Amended). A chewing gum granulating system according to claim 39, wherein the system further comprises one or more sieves adapted for removing granules with average diameters above 2.55 mm.

47-48 (Amended). A chewing gum granulating system according to claim 39, wherein the system further comprises a tableting machine.